

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /113 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5296

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, US

SUBJECT: PRO PUERTO RICAN COMMONWEALTH GROUP TO APPLY FOR UN/NGO
STATUS

1. ON SEPTEMBER 8, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION IN FAVOR OF THE FREE ASSOCIATED STATE (PROELA) INFORMED US OF THEIR INTENTION TO APPLY FOR UN NGO STATUS. IN RESPONSE TO MISOFF'S STATEMENT OF HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT PROELA DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR NGO STATUS SINCE IT IS NOT AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION CONCERNED WITH MATTERS WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF ECOSOC (PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF THE UN CHARTER), EFREN RAMIREZ AND HECTOR I. VAZQUEZ DISAGREED. NOTING THAT "NATIONAL" ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS CORE HAVE NGO STATUS, THAT PROELA PLANS TO ESTABLISH CHAPTERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND THAT THE AIM OF PROELA IS "TO EDUCATE THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO AND THE WORLD" ABOUT THE COMPLEXITIES OF FREE ASSOCIATION, THEY REQUESTED A FORMAL ANSWER TO THEIR REQUEST.

2. USUN DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT PROELA QUALIFIES FOR NGO STATUS BECAUSE IT IS NOT AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. THE DEPT WILL RECALL THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
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WAS QUIETLY SHELVED AT THE 1977 SESSION OF THE NGO COMMITTEE BECAUSE THE ABA COULD NOT SHOW THAT IT QUALIFIED AS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. WE MUST BEAR IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONS IN THE PAST TO THE SELECTION CRITERIA AND SOME NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PRINCIPALLY AFRICAN, HAVE BEEN GRANTED STATUS AS NGO'S. WITH RESPECT TO AN APPLICA-

TION FROM AN ORGANIZATION FROM PUERTO RICO, WE WILL HAVE TO EXPECT THAT DELEGATIONS SUCH AS THE USSR AND CUBA WILL LEND A SYMPATHETIC EAR AND EVEN PROMOTE THE CANDIDACY. AS SELECTION OF ORGANIZATIONS FOR NGO STATUS HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY CONSENSUS IN THE NGO COMMITTEE, THERE SHOULD BE OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK OUT AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION WITHOUT A PUBLIC CONFRONTATION WITH RESPECT TO THIS OR OTHER PUERTO RICAN ORGANIZATIONS.

3. THE NGO COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET IN JANUARY 1978 TO COMPLETE UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE 1977 SESSION AND TO BEGIN WORK ON THE NGO REVIEW. THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING AT WHICH THE NGO COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER NEW APPLICATIONS WILL PROBABLY BE EARLY 1979.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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